Appl. No. 10/614,733
Amdt. Dated April 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

uploading a scanned barcode and a store credit from a portable scanner, the store credit being stored within the portable scanner and awarded based on participation in a retail store program (RSP); and

processing at least the scanned barcode and the store credit electronically.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanned barcode is a coupon barcode scanned and digitally stored in the portable scanner.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the uploading of the scanned barcode comprises

establishing a communication path between the portable scanner and a Point of Sale (POS) system at a retail store; and

transmitting the scanned barcode to the POS system for processing.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises retrieving coupon barcodes from a storage location on a server associated with a customer assigned the portable scanner, the coupon barcodes being electronic coupons that have been non-redeemed to date.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises scanning coupon barcodes from paper coupons provided by a customer assigned the portable scanner.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode comprises comparing a manufacturer code from the coupon barcode

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with a product barcode read by the POS system, and if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and any terms and conditions associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased product meets terms set by the coupon barcode.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises redeeming the scanned coupon by determining if a purchase of a product satisfies redemption rules and meets a plurality of terms of coupon definitions.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises redeeming of the scanned coupon further comprises generating a detailed proof of purchase for every coupon redemption transaction associated with a purchased product, the proof of purchase comprises (i) a date stamp, (ii) a time stamp, (iii) a retail store location where the coupon was redeemed and an aisle location of a product purchased, (iv) an original selling price of the purchased product , (v) a face value of the scanned coupon redeemed, and (vi) additional discounts offered by the retailer.

9.   (Previously Presented) Adapted to a portable scanner system supporting electronic coupon validation and redemption, a portable scanner comprising:
       a communication port;
       an optical converter;
       a processing unit in communication with the optical converter and the communication port; and
       an internal memory coupled to the processing unit, the internal memory comprises a plurality of data storage groupings including (1) a first data storage grouping being a list of coupons, inaccessible for redemption, that are currently available for a particular geographic region, and (2) a second data storage grouping being a list of coupons, accessible for redemption, that were scanned and matched with a coupon of the first data storage grouping.

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10. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 9, wherein the internal memory further comprises a third data storage grouping including a list of coupons, accessible for redemption, that were scanned and unmatched with a coupon of the first data storage grouping.

11. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 10, wherein the internal memory further comprises a fourth data storage grouping being configured to store a manufacturer code for each manufacturer participating in the portable scanner system.

12. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 9 further comprising a display to illustrate coupon descriptive information being alphanumeric characters to identify at least one of the following: a value of a coupon, expiration date of a coupon, a description of a discounted product, and a description of a manufacturer of the discounted product.

13. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 12 further comprising an interface to enable a customer to control operations of the scanner, the interface comprises (i) at least one scroll key that, when depressed, enables a customer to scroll and review alphanumeric characters on the display, and (ii) a scan key that, when depressed, activates the optical converter to scan a data object.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the internal memory further contains a unique identification number to enable identification of scanner and the customer.

15. (Previously Presented) A portable scanner system comprising:
a portable scanner that comprises internal memory to store (i) a plurality of electronic coupons stored as coupon barcodes and (ii) retail store program (RSP) information including store credit accessible only by the in-store server; and
an in-store server in communication with the portable scanner to receive downloaded electronic coupons from the portable scanner for subsequent validation and transmission to a Point-of-Sale (POS) system.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the POS system includes a POS terminal and a docking station in communication with the POS terminal, the docking station adapted for coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in communication with the in-store server, the kiosk adapted for coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in communication with the in-store server, the kiosk comprises a scanner/barcode reader for scanning and collecting printed coupons deposited by a customer, coupon information read by the scanner/barcode reader is stored within a database in the in-store server.

19. (Original) A method comprising:
comparing a manufacturer code from a coupon barcode with a product barcode read by a Point-of-Sale (POS) system; and
if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and any other terms and conditions associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased product and date of purchase satisfies each term set by the coupon barcode.

20. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner system of claim 15, wherein the internal memory further comprises a storage grouping within the internal memory being separately configured to store retail store program (RSP) information, the RSP information is able to be reviewed and cannot be modified by a user of the portable scanner.

21. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 20, wherein the RSP information is accessible only by one or more in-store servers of a retail store that uploaded the RSP information to the portable scanner.

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22. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 20, wherein the RSP information includes store credit awarded in response to purchases qualified a specific store shopper program.

23. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 15, wherein the portable scanner processes the electronic coupon by comparing a manufacturer code from the coupon barcode with a product barcode and determining whether a purchase of a product associated with the product barcode meets a plurality of terms and conditions set by the coupon barcode, and only if so, transmits the electronic coupon for routing to the POS system.